

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 05523 081754Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 SS-15 INR-10 IO-14 SSM-05

/057 W

-----021711 100144Z /70

R 081715Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO USINFO WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6700

UNCLAS RABAT 5523

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FOR PGM/RC

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: CAMP DAVID SUMMIT COVERAGE

1. SUMMARY: PRESS COVERAGE OF THE CONFERENCE
DECLINED NOTICEABLY TODAY. FRENCH-LANGUAGE DAILY
AL MAGHRIB WHICH DEVOTED A FULL PAGE TO THE
SUMMIT YESTERDAY REPORTS NOTHING ON IT TODAY.
EDITORIAL COMMENTS IN THE ARABIC AND FRENCH PRESS
SUGGEST THAT THE SECRECY SURROUNDING THE NEGOTIATIONS
CONFIRMS THE EXISTENCE OF SEVERE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
TEL AVIV AND CAIRO. END SUMMARY.

2. THE ISTIQLALI DAILY L'OPINION, THE ONLY FRENCH
NEWSPAPER TO PRINT A COMMENTARY, ASKS "WHAT CAN WE
EXPECT FROM THE CAMP DAVID CONFERENCE?" JUNIOR
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS EDITOR SAID FATMI ANSWERS HIS OWN QUESTION
BY CONCLUDING THAT "IF DIALOGUE BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL IS
MAINTAINED AFTER CAMP DAVID, THEN THE CONFERENCE WILL HAVE
ACHIEVED THE MAJOR SHARE OF ITS OBJECTIVES." PRO-GOVERNMENT
LE MATIN CITING AFP SOURCES DESCRIBES THE FIRST NEGOTIATING
SESSIONS WHERE THE AMERICANS " ARE APPLYING A WISE AND METIC-
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PAGE 02 RABAT 05523 081754Z

ULOUS STRATEGY.....INTERVENING ONLY WHEN THE DISCUSSIONS
(BETWEEN MR. SADAT AND MR. BEGIN) BREAK DOWN."

3. THREE ARABIC PAPERS PUBLISHED LONG EDITORIALS ON THE CONFERENCE. THE ISTIQLALI DAILY AL ALAM CLAIMS THAT "THE ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING CAMP DAVID PROVIDES NEW CONFIRMATION OF SEVERE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN DIFFERENCES." SOCIALIST DAILY AL MUHARRIR

INTERPRETS AMERICAN DIPLOMACY AS "UNCERTAIN AND SCEPTICAL"
WITH PRESIDENT CARTER ENCUMBERED BY "A LONG LIST OF POSSIBLE
COURSES OF ACTION INCLUDING ONE THAT TOTALS SEVENTY-TWO PAGES."
AL MITHAQ AL WATANI, PRO-GOVERNMENT IN EDITORIAL POLICY, POSES
THE QUESTION, " WILL ISRAEL ALLOW THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PEACE TO
SLIP BY A SECOND TIME OR IS MR. BEGIN STILL ATTACHED TO THE
NOTION OF HIS COUNTRY ACQUIRING LAND FROM THE ARABS?"RENTSCHLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978RABAT05523
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780368-0808
Format: TEL
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780988/aaaacuta.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 47371054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1502997
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CAMP DAVID SUMMIT COVERAGE
TAGS: SOPN, PDEV, MO
To: USIA
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/47371054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014